infiltrating into Assam through local agents; and

(b) if so, what positive steps the Central Governemnt have so far taken for strengthening Assam border to prevent infiltration from Bangaldesh as per Assam Accord Clause No. 9 during the period 1985-1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No reports regarding infiltration of foreign nationals from across the border into Assam through local agents have been received. However, the Central Governemnt have taken the following steps to check infiltration into Assam from across the border:-

(1) In pursuance of clause 9 of the Assam Accord a scheme for construction of border road/fence along Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up and the work is under progress. In response to the request from Government of Assam it has also now been decided to take up construction of barbed wire fence in 36 kms. along the north and south bank of Brahmaputra in Dhubri Sector.

(2) One additional batallion of BSF has been inducted during 1987-88 and another batallion is being provided shortly.

(3) The numbers of Border out-posts and of OP towers have been increased.

(4) Under the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners Scheme 1280 posts of various categories have been sanctioned for the purpose of detection and expulsion of foreign nationals in Assam.

Proposal for Creating "No Man's Land" on Assam-Bangladesh Border

237. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Chief Minister of Assam urging the Central Government for creating a "No Man's Land" on the Assam-Bangladesh border; and

(b) if so, what positive steps Government have taken for the implementation of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since creation of 'No Man's Land' would mean removal of structures along the zero line of the International border as well as eviction of people living in those areas and their subsequent rehabilitation on alternate sites, the State Government have been requested to assess the magnitude of the human problem that is likely to arise.

Foreign exchange reserves

238. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest level of foreign currency assets of Rs. 6243.1 crores on December 23, 1988 is less than the trade deficit in 1987-88;

(b) if so, whether the latest level of reserves constituted two thirds of the deficit on merchandise accounts;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons therefor; and

(d) to what extent the latest reserve has been reduced in 1988 and what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and SDR's) as on December 23, 1988 constituted more than